

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

Short-Term | Primary Media Statements

- The first stage of an EPA Superfund cleanup project in Harris County known as the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is set to begin in April [*or a date certain TBD*]
- Located on the Western bank of the San Jacinto River, just North of Interstate 10, the Site contains waste resulting from long-ceased paper industry production. Although disposal operations have been inactive at this Site for more than four decades, remediation is needed now due to concerns about the release of hazardous substances disposed of on the Site in the 1960s.
- As of April __, the Site is now closed to all public access. Trespass onto the property or the shoreline area is strictly prohibited for the safety of all citizens.
- Fencing and other access barriers have been erected, as have multi-lingual warning signs, to help ensure public safety while this environmental clean-up project gets under way.
- Due to multiple sources of pollution affecting the San Jacinto River, importantly, the public should continue to heed previously issued warnings about the risks of consuming catfish or blue crab caught in this body of water.
- In addition to the Site cleanup, the project includes water sampling and analysis to further measure impacts in the contiguous area.
- This project is under the direction of the U.S. EPA Region 6. Multiple community organizations, government agencies and elected officials (*list all by name*) are currently collaborating to help inform the public, particularly those who fish in the area, about the clean-up process, the ongoing fish advisory and other facets of this project.

Further Background about the Project and the Site:

- A team of qualified, expert engineering and environmental professionals has been engaged to take appropriate remediation actions and help restore the site.
- Also planned for the Site is a sampling and analysis of water and sediments immediately surrounding the Site. This involves studying areas where sand dredging and other sediment-movement activity occurred as recently as the late 1990s. These studies will help determine other areas that may require further remedial efforts.
- Costs for these actions are being paid by two companies under the direction of U.S. EPA. These companies are McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC) and International Paper.
- For more information on-line about this project, please visit [*appropriate EPA Web site link*]. Community flyers are also available for distribution as needed via [*appropriate contact*].

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